

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Cigars are released from a feed station onto first and second conveyor belts and directed along a predetermined feed path, part of which coinciding with a wheel interposed between the two belts and equipped with a set of needles serving to pierce the cigars by engaging at least one respective end portion; the wheel is also equipped with a set of clamp elements, each able to restrain a single cigar and caused to revolve in stable alignment with a relative needle. The single needle is fashioned from a resistive metal and connected to an electrical power source in such a way that it can be heated by applying a current and inducing the Joule effect.

Figure 1